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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR.

27 Dec. 1949

SUBJECT Soviet Air-Naval Maneuvers in Gulf of Finland

NO. OF PAGES

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1. Soviet naval maneuvers were held in the Gulf of Finland

2. Warships involved in the maneuvers (letters in parentheses
are used in the formation charts) given in para 3b (2):

- a. Two cruisers, Kirov class (C), one of which was equipped with a catapult.
- b. One flotilla leader, Leningrad class (F)
- c. Four destroyers, Gromki class (D)
- d. Seven torpedo boats, Burya class (T)
- e. Two new mine sweepers (M)
- f. Nine mine sweepers, Pugas class (M)
- g. Twenty PT boats (FF)
- h. One icebreaker, Stalin class (I), with three aircraft on deck
- i. Eleven submarines, K class
- j. Fifteen submarines, M class

3. Naval Exercises

a. Individual exercises

(1) Firing practices of the Kirov-class cruisers with heavy

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50X1-HUM

- 2 -

artillery at targets at a distance of 20,000 to 25,000 feet, and with AAA at towed sleeve targets, while the cruisers were going at a speed of 20 knots and more.

(2) Firing practices of the flotilla leader (five guns) and the destroyers at towed surface targets at a distance of about 13,000 feet, while the destroyers were going at a speed of up to 30 knots.

(3) Firing practices of the torpedo boats and mine sweepers at towed surface targets at a distance of 10,000 to 13,000 feet and at towed sleeve targets with light AA guns.

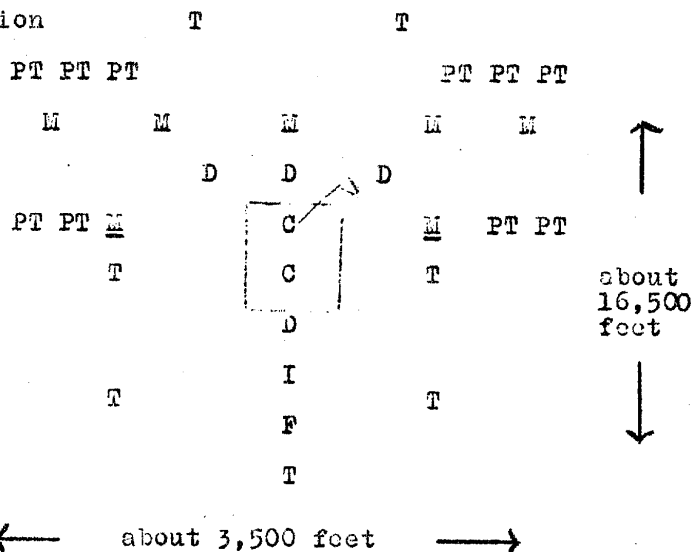
b. Exercises in formation

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(1) The maneuvering force rarely practiced as a whole; it usually was in several formations.

(2) The following two formations were primarily observed with the whole maneuver force. The position of the ships within the formations made it possible to compare the ships' sizes, to identify the types and determine the minimum number of ships of individual types:

First formation



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50X1-HUM

- 3 -

Second formation:

PT
PT
PT
PT
D
D
T
T
F

C
C

D
T
T
T
T
T
T
T
T
PT
PT
PT
PT

- (3) The following individual exercises were observed:
- (a) Attack of torpedo boats against the force in march formation.
 - (b) mine planting by torpedo boats, each having 30 to 40 mines on deck.
 - (c) On three days air attacks against the formation. Twenty to thirty aircraft at a time were seen in a low-level attack. Twin-engine low-wing aircraft with far projecting fuselage were observed.
 - (d) AA firing practices by the whole formation at towed sleeve targets and kites.
 - (e) Smoke screening of the whole formation, done in two or three minutes. Mine sweepers and PT boats were particularly effective in smoke spraying.
 - (f) Release of barrage balloons by the icebreaker. Up to six balloons were observed at one time.
 - (g) Searchlight practices by ships (observed from a great distance)
 - (h) Throwing of live depth charges by all smaller craft, including the PT boats.

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50X1-HUM

- 4 -

c. Exercises of Submarines

(1) The submarines obviously did not practice with the formation or individual surface vessels. They were chiefly observed on days when no surface vessels were in sight.

(2) Large submarines required 50 seconds to submerge, small ones 25 seconds.

(3) Because of the great distance, it could not be determined if the submarines were equipped with snorkel breathers.

4. Flags

a. Soviet ensigns were clearly seen. The icebreaker flew the green flag of the NVD.

b. The cruiser without catapult obviously was the formation command ship. It flew the pennant of a squadron commander (vice-admiral).

Comment:

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a. The report gives a detailed and credible picture of Soviet naval maneuvers.

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b. The observations and descriptions identify the individual types of ships.

(Three guns of about 100 mm caliber and numerous light antiaircraft guns were observed. The vessel, about 330 feet long, was relatively fast, very maneuverable, and equipped with an effective smoke screening device.)

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